This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method to complete tasks over a network, comprising:

receiving, by a server computer, a request to perform a task for a plurality of computers over a network, wherein the task comprises installing a software application or updating a software application;

performing said task using a multicast message communicated from said server computer over said network, wherein the performance of said task is triggered by an event occurring on said server computer or said network;

updating a task status table by said server, wherein said task status table indicates whether said task has been completed for each of said plurality of computers;

receiving, by said server computer, a request to complete said task from a first computer;

prioritizing requests to complete said task, if more than one request is received by said server computer from each of a plurality of computers, the requests being prioritized based upon the last completion time of a prior request;

determining whether said task was completed for said first computer using said task status table;

performing said task using a unicast message communicated from said server computer over said network to said first computer in accordance with said determination and said prioritization; and

updating said task status table indicating whether said task has been completed for said first computer.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining whether said task was completed for said first computer comprises:

receiving an identifier for said first computer;

searching said task status table using said identifier;

retrieving a status indicator associated with said identifier; and

determining whether said task was completed for said first computer using said status indicator.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving said request to complete said task from said first computer comprises:

determining whether said first computer is in communication with said network; and

sending said request to complete said task from said first computer.

4. (Currently Amended) A method to communicate information over a network, comprising:

receiving, by a server computer, a request to send information to a plurality of devices;

sending, from said server computer, said information to said plurality of devices using a broadcast message, wherein the sending of said information is triggered by an event occurring on said server computer or said network;

updating a task status table by said server, wherein said task status table indicates whether said information has been received by each of said plurality of devices;

receiving, by said server computer, a request for said information from at least one device;

prioritizing requests for said information, if more than one request is received by said server computer from each of a plurality of devices, the requests being prioritized based upon the last completion time of a prior request;

determining whether said at least one device received said information using said task status table;

sending, from said server computer, said information to said at least one device using a unicast message in accordance with said determination and said prioritization; and

updating said task status table indicating whether said information has been received by said at least one device.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein said determining whether said at least one device received said information comprises:

receiving an identifier for said at least one device;

searching said task status table using said identifier;

retrieving a status indicator associated with said identifier; and

determining whether said at least one device received said information using said status indicator.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said receiving said request for said information comprises:

connecting said at least one device to said network; and

sending said request for said information from said at least one device.

7. (Currently Amended) A method to complete tasks over a network, comprising:

receiving, by a server computer, a request to perform a task for a plurality of devices over a network, wherein the task comprises installing a software application or updating a software application;

performing said task using a multicast message communicated from said server computer over said network, wherein the performance of said task is triggered by an event occurring on said server computer or said network;

receiving, by said server computer, a request to complete said task from at least one device and an identifier for said at least one device;

prioritizing requests to complete said task, if more than one request is received by said server computer from each of a plurality of devices, the requests being prioritized based upon the last completion time of a prior request;

searching a task status table using said identifier;

retrieving a status indicator associated with said identifier;

determining whether said task was completed for said at least one device using said status indicator;

performing said task using a unicast message communicated from said server computer over said network to said at least one device in accordance with said determination and said prioritization; and

updating said task status table, wherein said task status table comprises said status indicator indicating whether said task has been completed for said at least one device.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said receiving a request to complete said task from at least one device comprises:

connecting said at least one device to said network; and

sending said request to complete said task from said at least one device.

9. (Currently Amended) An article comprising:

a storage medium;

said storage medium including stored instructions that, when executed by a processor, result in receiving, by a server computer, a request to perform a task for a plurality of devices over a network, performing said task using a multicast message communicated from said server computer over said network, wherein the performance of said task is triggered by an event occurring on said server computer or said network, receiving, by said server computer, a request to complete said task from at least one device, prioritizing requests to complete said task, if more than one request is received by said server computer from each of a plurality of devices, the requests being prioritized based upon the last completion time of a prior request, determining whether said task was completed for said at least one device using a task status table, performing said task using a unicast message communicated from said server computer over said network to said at least one device in accordance with said

determination and said prioritization, and updating said task status table, wherein said task status table comprises a status indicator indicating whether said task has been completed for said at least one device, wherein the task comprises installing a software application or updating a software application.

10. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 9, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in determining whether said task was completed for said at least one device by receiving an identifier for said at least one device, searching said task status table using said identifier, retrieving said status indicator associated with said identifier, and determining whether said task was completed for said at least one device using said status indicator.

11. (Original) The article of claim 9, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in receiving said request to complete said task from at least one device by determining whether said at least one device is in communication with said network, and sending said request to complete said task from said at least one device.

12. (Currently Amended) An article comprising:

a storage medium;

said storage medium including stored instructions that, when executed by a processor, result in receiving, by a server computer, a request to send information to a plurality of devices, sending said information, from said server computer, to said plurality of devices using a broadcast message, wherein the sending of said information is triggered by an event occurring on said server computer or said network, receiving a request for said information from at least one device, prioritizing requests for said information, if more than one request is received by said server computer from each of a plurality of devices, the requests being prioritized based upon the last completion time of a prior request, determining whether said at least one device received said

information using a task status table, sending said information, from said server computer, to said at least one device using a unicast message in accordance with said determination, and updating said task status table, wherein said task status table comprises a status indicator indicating whether said information has been received by said at least one device.

13. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 12, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in determining whether said at least one device received said information by receiving an identifier for said at least one device, searching said task status table using said identifier, retrieving said status indicator associated with said identifier, and determining whether said at least one device received said information using said status indicator.

14. (Original) The article of claim 12, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in receiving a request for said information by connecting said at least one device to said network, and sending said request for said information from said at least one device.

15. (Currently Amended) An article comprising:

a storage medium;

said storage medium including stored instructions that, when executed by a processor, result in receiving, by a server computer, a request to perform a task for a plurality of devices over a network, performing said task using a multicast message communicated from said server computer over said network, wherein the performance of said task is triggered by an event occurring on said server computer or said network, receiving, by said server computer, a request to complete said task from at least one device, prioritizing requests to complete said task, if more than one request is received by said server computer from each of a plurality of devices, the requests being prioritized based upon the last completion time of a prior request,

searching a task status table using an identifier, retrieving a status indicator associated with said identifier, determining whether said task was completed for said at least one device using said status indicator, performing said task using a unicast message communicated from said server computer over said network to said at least one device in accordance with said determination and said prioritization, and updating said task status table, wherein said task status table comprises said status indicator indicating whether said task has been completed for said at least one device, wherein the task comprises installing a software application or updating a software application.

16. (Original) The article of claim 15, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in receiving said request to complete said task from at least one device by connecting said at least one device to said network, and sending said request to complete said task from said at least one device.

17. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a server, said server having a task manager module to manage completion of a task for a plurality of target devices using a multicast message communicated from said server and update a task status table, wherein said task status table comprises a status indicator indicating whether said task has been completed, wherein the task comprises installing a software application or updating a software application, and wherein performance of said task is triggered by an event occurring on said server;

a plurality of target devices, said plurality of target devices each having a task finisher module to request completion of said task if uncompleted, wherein said requests to complete said task are prioritized by said task manager module, the requests being prioritized based upon the last completion time of a prior request, and wherein the task finisher module is configured to install or update applications; and

a network to communicate information between said server and said plurality of target devices to complete said task.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, further comprising a task handler module for each of said plurality of target devices to complete said task for said plurality of target devices.